(c) whether railways are aware of the fact that many passengers coming directly to Ahmedabad by road and travel in long distance trains even without reservations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The inadequacy of traffic was assessed on the basis of sale of tickets from major stations in Saurashtra for destinations outside Western Railway. The figure was only 375 per day.

(b) The quota utilisation is 100 per cent only at Rajkot and Jamnagar on majority of long distance trains originating from Ahmedabad.

(c) Road journey from the majority of places in Saurashtra to Ahmedabad is cheaper and faster.

Funds for Cochin-Madurai Highway

2917. SHRI K. GOPALAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of funds released for Cochin Madurai Highway so far;

(b) how much out of it has so far been spent and also the nature of the work undertaken so far and when will each work is expected to be completed;

(c) how much work has been completed out of the total work undertaken as on date; and

(d) by when the whole work is expected to be over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Under the Constitution, the Government of India are primarily responsible for roads declared as National Highways only. All roads other than National Highways in States are essentially the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. However, with a view to assisting financially the Government to Kerala, the Government of India have agreed to provide a loan assistance of Rs. 100 lakhs for 'Improvement of Cochin-Madurai Road (part length) in Kerala' under E&I Programme of 6th Five Year Plan. Out of this audit has been authorised to admit expenditure for Rs. 68.31 lakhs. Funds are released to the State as a whole and not workwise;

(b) to (d) An expenditure of Rs. 9.40 lakhs has been reported so far. The work of Improvement of the road by way of widening and strengthening of pavement and reconstruction of weak ad narrow culverts in 14 Kms length has been taken up. 50 per cent of cross drainage works have been completed. The work now taken up is expected to be completed by April 1998.

International Airports

2918. SHRI K. GOPALAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of International Airports in the country, and what are the names of the foreign Airlines operating in each of the Airports besides Air India;

(b) the names of other domestic airports where Air India is permitted to operate and also the number of flights Air India operate in each of these Airports;

(c) whether any representation has been received to declare any of domestic Airports "International";

(d) whether any committee was appointed in this regard and if so, what are the names of its members and terms of reference; and

(e) when the Committee submitted its report and what action has since been taken on each of these recommendations?